

USDA  
Regulatory Analysis & Development

Almont, N.D. 58520  
May 21, 2005

Concerning Docket #50-15-1/ National Animal Identification:

The cattle industry is best suited for coming up with some sort of verified electronic identification tag to supplement the existing animal indentifications already in place such as BRANDS. Together the existing state, tribal and federal agencies command an exceptional traceback should an outbreak of disease occur. Having said that it makes sense that the data base with all this information on file should be held at the state veterinarian office and also the state stockman association that issue premise identification numbers and record brands.

As far as traceback of animal disease on imported cattle it is logical to remove cattle from the "J-list of the Treasury Department's statute. Thereby USDA will immediately have the ability to verify the origins of all cattle standing at the packer-house gate. This in itself won't cost the industry a nickel. There is already legislation pending in congress.

Sincerely,

*David Willman*

David Willman, rancher

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MAY 25 2005